

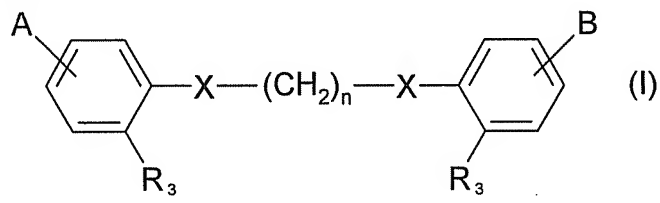
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-16. (Canceled)

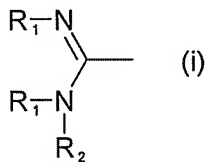
17. (Currently amended) A method for treating Alzheimer's disease in a subject in need of treatment thereof, the method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of an amidine compound, wherein the amidine compound comprises a bis-benzamidine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of treating Alzheimer's disease in a subject in need of treatment thereof~~Claim 17, the method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of an amidine compound~~ wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds substituents of formula (i):



subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i);

R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound substituent of formula (i) together represent $-(CH_2)_m-$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

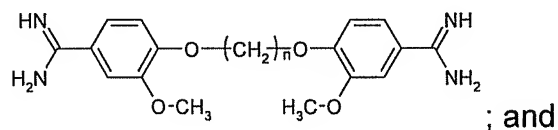
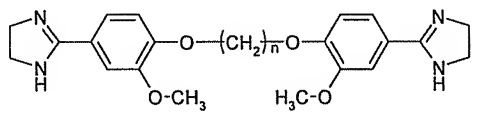
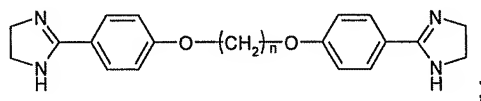
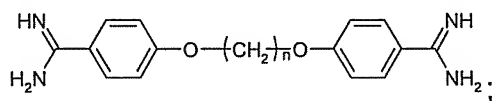
R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

n is an integer from 2 to 6; and

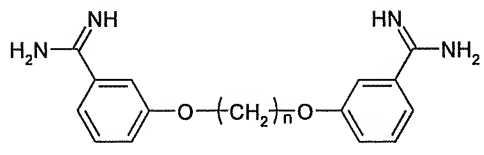
X is O, NH, or S;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



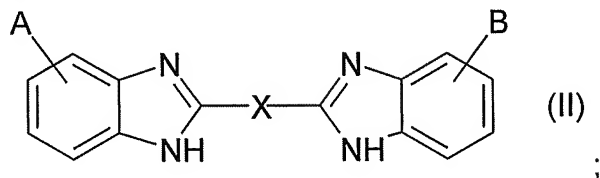
; and



wherein n is an integer from 2 to 6;

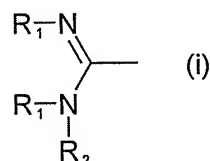
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (II):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds substituents of formula (i):

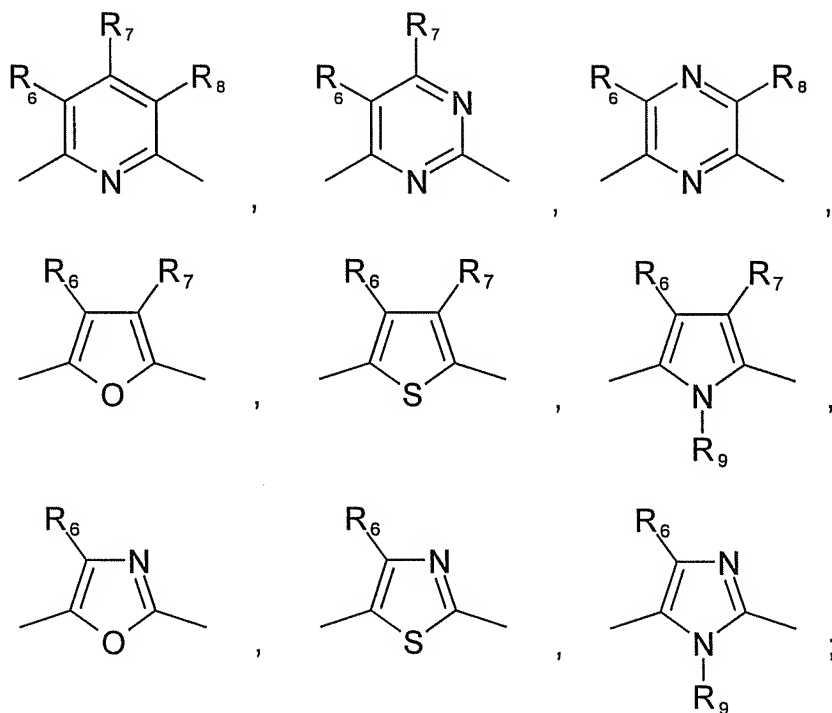


~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);~~

R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound substituent of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

X is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C₁-C₁₂ alkyl comprising up to 4 double bonds; or X is a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:

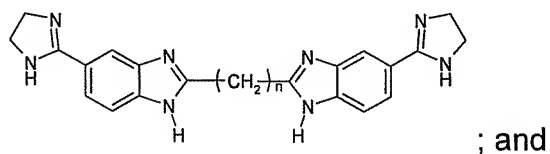
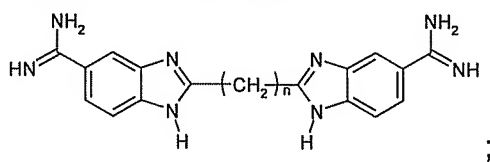


wherein

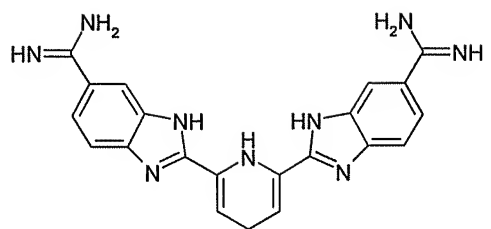
R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 20, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:

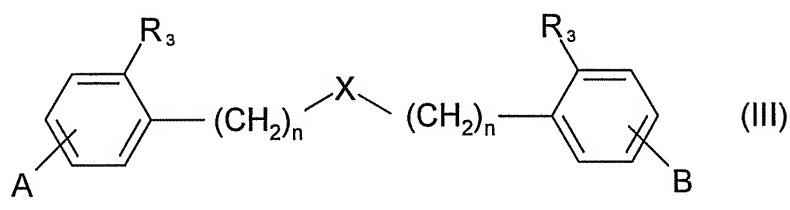


; and



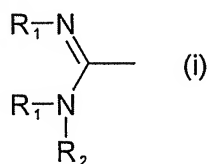
wherein n is an integer from 1 to 12;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (III):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds substituents of formula (i):

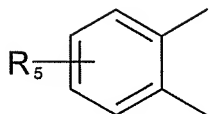


~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);~~

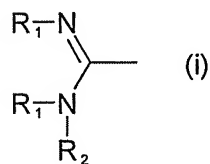
R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound substituent of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound substituent of formula (i) together represent



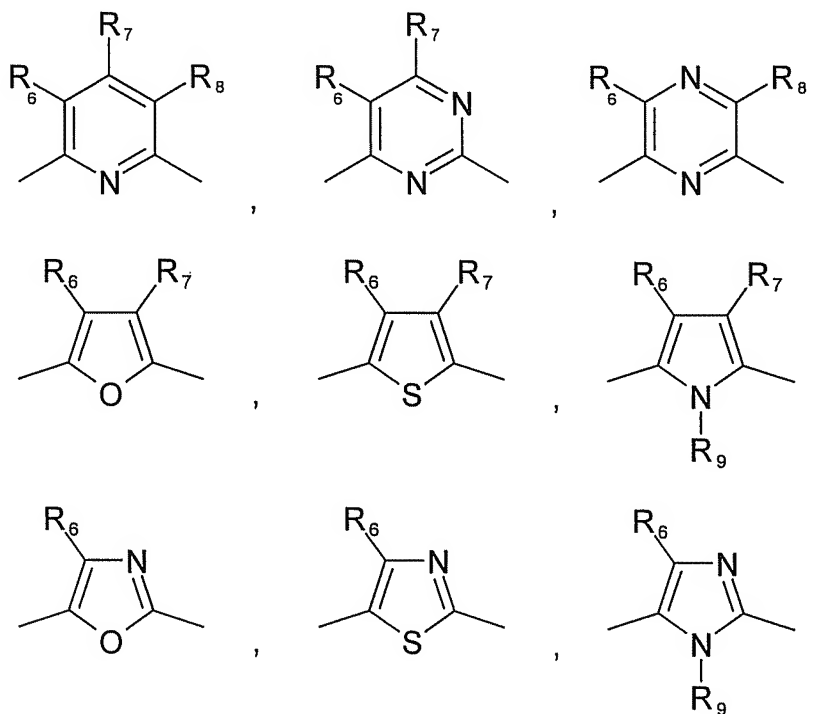
wherein R₅ is



R₃ is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

n is an integer from 0 to 2; and

X is CH₂O or a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:

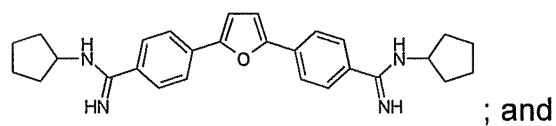
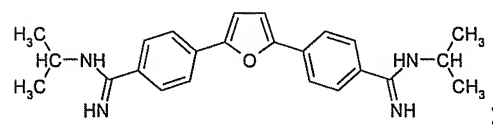
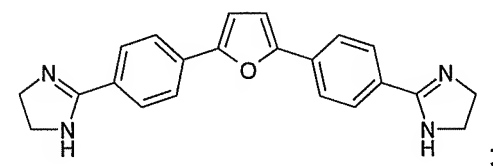
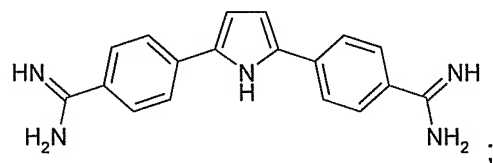
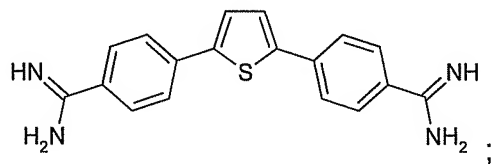
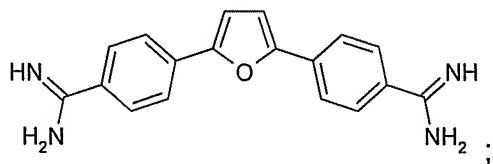


wherein:

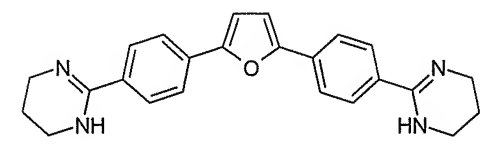
R₆, R₇, and R₈ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

R₉ is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 22 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:

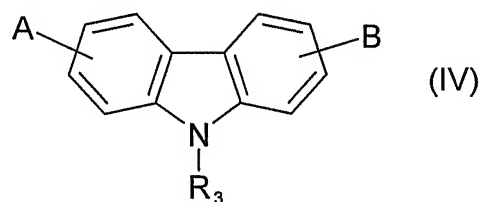


; and



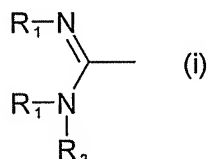
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (IV):



wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds substituents of formula (i):

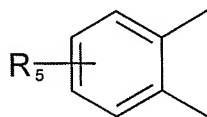


~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);~~

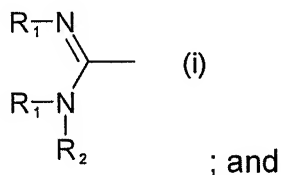
R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound substituent of formula (i) together represent —(CH₂)_m— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R₁ groups on the same compound substituent of formula (i) together represent

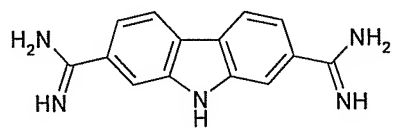
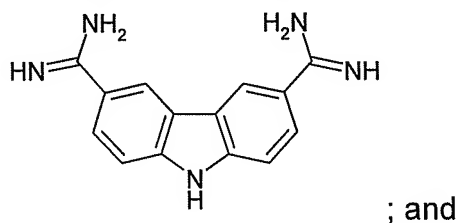


wherein R₅ is



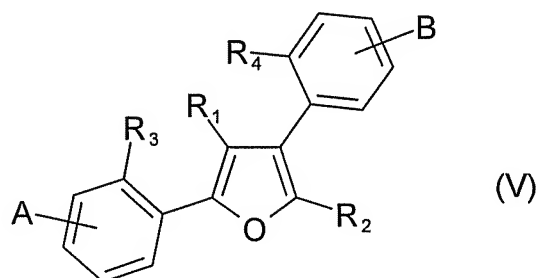
R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



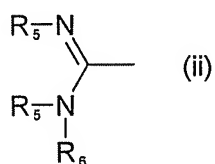
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (V):



wherein:

A and B are each independently ~~selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds~~ substituents of formula (ii):



~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (ii);~~

~~R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aminoaryl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;~~

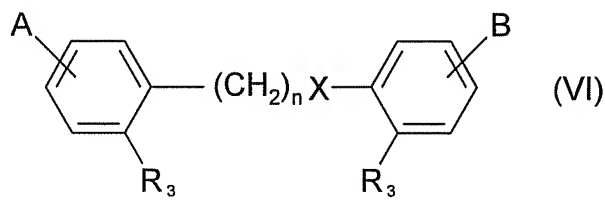
~~R₃ and R₄ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkylaryl, aryl, oxyaryl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or halogen;~~

~~each R₅ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl;~~

~~or two R₅ groups together represent C₂ to C₁₀ alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or alkylene;~~
~~and~~

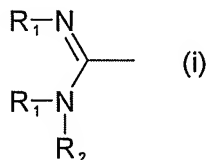
~~R₆ is H, hydroxy, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aryl, and alkylaryl;~~
~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (VI):



wherein:

~~A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds~~
substituents of formula (i):



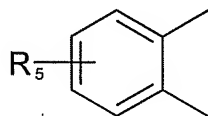
~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);~~

~~R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;~~

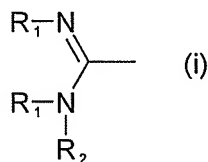
or two R_1 groups on the same compound substituent of formula (i) together represent $-(CH_2)_m-$ wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

or two R_1 groups on the same compound substituent of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is

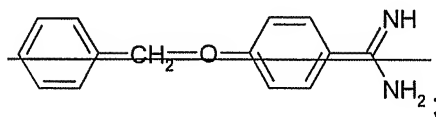
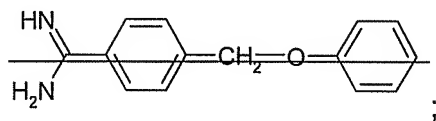
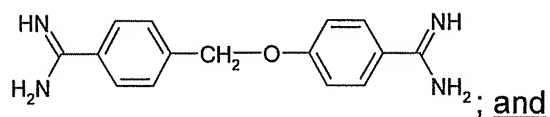


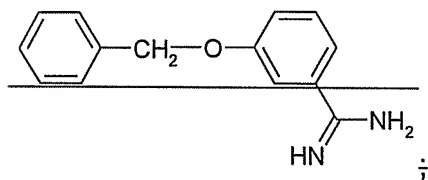
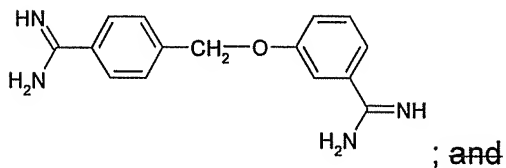
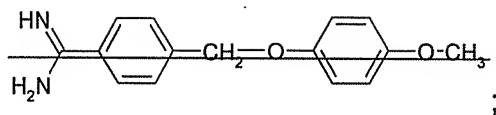
X is O, S, or NH;

n is an integer from 1 to 8;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:

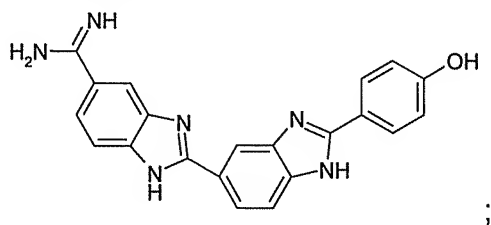




or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[17]]~~18 wherein the amidine comprises a bis-benzamidine.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17 wherein the amidine comprises a compound having the following structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the subject is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

32-48. (Canceled)

Please add the following new claim:

49. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the subject is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.